

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 13154 200946Z
ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13154

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TBIO, CH, JA
SUBJECT: PICKLE CARCINOGENICITY

REF: (A) TOKYO 10155, (B) USLO PEKING 1719,
(C) TOKYO 10572

1. SCICOUNS HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM DR. ROBERT MILLER,
NIH/NCI CONCERNING PROCUREMENT OF PICKLES FOR CARCINOGENIC-
ITY TESTING. PERTINENT SECTIONS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS:

2. THE PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING SAMPLES OF PICKLES FOR
DR. SUGIMURA MAY NOT BE BRIGHT. A CHINESE-AMERICAN
PHYSICIAN FROM NCI HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THREE WEEKS IN
CHINA, WHERE SHE SPOKE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WITH
DR. LI PING, AN OUTSTANDING SCIENTIST, AND THE PRINCIPAL
PICKLE PROCURER. DR. LI INDICATED NO ENTHUSIASM FOR
PROVIDING SAMPLES. ONE REASON IS THAT THE CHINESE LEADERS
IN ONCOLOGY HAVE MADE IT WIDELY KNOWN THAT THEY BELIEVE
EACH CANCER HAS A MULTI-FACTORIAL ORIGIN, AND AN ABOUT-
FACE THAT FOCUSED ON A SINGLE CAUSATIVE AGENT MIGHT BE
AWKWARD FOR THEM. A SECOND POSSIBLE REASON IS THAT THE
CHINESE MAY NOT BE KEEN ON HAVING THE WORK DONE IN JAPAN.
THE NCI VISITOR EXPLAINED THAT THE WORK WILL BE DONE IN
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JAPAN AS A FAVOR TO ME, BUT SHE FEELS THAT SHE WAS NOT
PERSUASIVE.

MEANWHILE, WE HAVE ENGAGED DR. LI'S INTEREST GREATLY IN
COMPUTER-GENERATION OF CANCER MORTALITY BY COMMUNE.
PERHAPS WITH TIME, THEIR RESISTANCE WILL DIMINISH AS WE
INCREASINGLY PROVIDE THEM WITH INFORMATION ACCORDING TO

THEIR PRIORITIES. UNQUOTE

3. RECENT CONVERSATION WITH DR. SUGIMURA REVEALED SOME CONCERN ON HIS PART THAT OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PICKLE SAMPLES MIGHT LEAD TO SOME KIND OF POLITICAL PROBLEM WITH CHINESE. HE WOULD STILL LIKE TO RECEIVE SAMPLES, BUT NOT IF THERE IS ANY RISK IN DOING SO. WE LEAVE IT TO USLO TO DETERMINE HOW OR WHETHER TO PROCEED AS OFFERED IN REFTEL B. ANSWER WOULD BE APPRECIATED. MANSFIELD

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